Christchurch

My Dear Friend, November 4 1853

I confess I am a bad correspondent, as you will no doubt think in my not taking any notice of the Taranaki Herald of Sept. 1. 1852, which you were so kind as to send me, stating you were unanimously elected the member to represent the Town of New Plymouth, which gave all your friends about here great pleasure, feeling that such an honor, would be a stepping stone to a future advancement in which the News paper dated July 2d. 1853 fully proved, stating you are elected to the office of Superintendent of the province of New Plymouth. I perceive you had a long speech to make, but I hope, that the revenue of the Settlement will enable the Government to appropriate a sufficient salary, according to the duties of the office. I have no idea of public men, should not be paid for real labour, for public good. I hope the next time we hear from you (which we shall at all times be very glad to) you will be able to give us an account of your welfare, and interest in your behalf. I suppose that a liberal salary has been fixed to the Superintendency. I hope you have been sometime married, your Mother and Ellen all about the lady. I do hope there are no children. Did you get the grant of Land

which the New Zealand promised you
the Company did not the have cattle to
your knowledge, Father? Do you farm your
own land? It is burning up all kinds
in a flourishing condition. I do not know
you have found any Gold Mines —
yet, as in Australia — this excitement
have caused a great numbers of persons
to leave New Zealand for that land of Gold
which produced a great deal of inconvenience
with regard to Servants & Labourers —
You no doubt heard of the loss of your
old friend Mrs Charles Dilke, she was
indeed a great loss to all that knew her,
I have never liked London since since
which Mr William Dilke died May 26 1852,
the two Misses Dilke are single, and the
Son is a Captain in the 77th Regiment now
at Glasgow. I am sorry to acquaint
you that Mrs Isabella Dilke died the
28th of September last, she is a great loss to her husband
being a talented & literary Character; she has
been looking extremely ill for some time;
and during the time, that her husband
was sent by the Government to the opening
of the Chrystal palace at New York in America,
she went with her Mother & Son to the Isle
of Wight — but it was quite evident to her
friends that her malady (Decline) had taken
too deep root, for any remedy to be resorted
to, to produce a recovery, fortunately her husband
arrived from America a fortnight before
her death — so that Dilke his Father is
living with him in Sloane St — All your
friends in this neighbourhood are much
the same, as when you left except
some of the elder branches looking

Mr Bell the doorkeeper of Devereaux Court
yesterday - the youth that I mentioned to you
I saw are well - I told my eldest daughter
I saw fit to send her education, the next
to Paris for twelve months to complete;
My son goes to a Clergyman in this City
and from what I can hear is going on
very well, & about a couple of years
more he will either go to Oxford
or Cambridge; as he has made up his
mind to be a Clergyman, I have now
seen in any of the English papers, of the
Turning of Tables - I have seen it done,
& I cannot understand the exact cause,
but this is not to wonderful as the following
fact - "My Brother in Law writes me -
he has received a letter from his Nephew
in London, he says - I suppose you have
seen Faraday's letter in the Times, on Spirit Rapping
the other day he had a specimen of this
Spirit Rapping, having been with an intelligent
friend to where they saw the Medium and
witness'd what never more astonished
in our lives, every question was asked
was answered without the slightest mistake,
the questions which were put were of course
those relating to our own private affairs &
many of them no one could have answered,
after having told me my own name, I asked
if I had any relation of the same name - Yes
does he live in this Country NO - in France NO
in Holland NO, where then, in Belgium and
is 85 years of age - what my really the case
I know all the parties - I suppose you
are too far, to interest yourselves about